

**WE CLAIM:**

1. An indenter for a nanoindentation instrument, comprising:  
an indentation tip having a centerline and a distal end;  
a flat on the distal end of said indentation tip, said flat being substantially perpendicular to said indentation tip centerline; and,  
an imaging probe extending from said indentation tip, said imaging probe being disposed substantially parallel to said indentation tip centerline and spaced a distance therefrom.
2. An indenter for a nanoindentation instrument, comprising:  
an indentation tip having a centerline and a distal end;  
a flat on the distal end of said indentation tip, said flat being substantially perpendicular to said indentation tip centerline; and,  
an imaging probe extending from said indentation tip, said imaging probe being disposed substantially parallel to said indentation tip centerline and spaced a distance therefrom, said imaging probe extending beyond said flat.
3. An indenter for a nanoindentation instrument, comprising:  
an indentation tip having a centerline and a distal end;  
a flat on the distal end of said indentation tip, said flat being substantially perpendicular to said indentation tip centerline, said flat forming a compression platen; and,  
an imaging probe extending from said distal end of said indentation tip, said imaging probe being disposed substantially parallel to said indentation tip centerline and spaced a distance therefrom.